

“Altar Rock” filming in Duxbury

By Jillian Harrington
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Filming commenced for the independent thriller film “Altar Rock” last week on the South Shore. Set in Nantucket, the movie is being shot around Duxbury as well as Plymouth. In Duxbury, sites will include the First Parish Church, the beach, Blakeman’s and Gurnet Road. Kristin Alexandre wrote the screenplay with her partner Wayne Carter. It was inspired in part by her daughter who used to hang out at Altar Rock on Nantucket by herself during the summer. The idea for “Altar Rock” came to mind when Alexandre was worrying about her daughter. She described the movie as a story about “family loyalty versus mad, passionate love of America and of a young woman.” “Altar Rock” centers around a foreign boy, Nico, and an American girl named Tillie who fall in love during a Nantucket summer. Yet, Nico’s older brother, the antagonist of the film, attempts to convince him to commit evil crimes throughout. “Altar Rock” explores whether an Eastern European man’s love for America and a girl can overcome that of his family, his country and his old ways.

“It’s about decisions we make, visa vie our families and our cultures,” Alexandre said. “At 18, are you going to stay in the dark side or are you going to cross over into a different path?”

In addition to this screenplay, Alexandre has released books and worked on other movies in the past. However, “Altar Rock” is the first film that she can call her own.

“It’s my baby,” she said.

Four years ago, she submitted the screenplay to the American Film Market Pitch Contest, and the project has been under development since. On set, Alexandre is learning the business and acts as both an overseer and a problemsolver.

The film is being produced by Boston-based Moody Independent producers Mark Donadio and Miriam Marcus. It is directed by Andrzej Bartkowiak, a distinguished cinematographer known for his work on movies such as “The Verdict” and “Terms of Endearment.” “Altar Rock” stars India Eisley as Tillie and K.J. Apa, the lead in the upcoming CW series Riverdale, as Nico. Also, Scott Adkins will play the role of the older brother, Marco, with Sydney Parks as another character, Felicity.

Already, the film has been sold internationally and the team will attempt to sell it domestically upon its final edit.

“It’s going to be a romantic, classical film with beautiful costumes and beautiful sets,” Alexandre said.

Alexandre believes the movie is topical and poses a relevant question in today’s society. She said, “I believe that we’re all the same, and I think that love triumphs...I don’t understand how hatred can win out, it doesn’t seem right.”

Filming will continue on into late August. As of now, “Altar Rock” is looking for film extras for a big scene to be shot at Duxbury Beach mid- August.

Anyone interested can find more information on the “Altar Rock” movie Facebook page.



Sydney Parks (top left) plays Felicity, India Eisley (at right), plays Tillie and Scott Adkins (bottom left) was cast as Marco.

Photo Courtesy of Altar Rock Facebook Page